

REMARKS

In this Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 13 have been amended and claim 126 has been added to better define the claimed invention. No new matter has been added by this Amendment. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18-20, and 123-126 will be pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected:

(a) claims 13-16, 18-20, and 125 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,554,834 to Crozet et al. ("Crozet");

(b) claims 1-6 and 123 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,443,467 to Biedermann et al. ("Biedermann") in view of Crozet; and

(c) claims 8-11 and 124 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,063,090 to Schlapfer ("Schlapfer") in view of Biedermann and Crozet.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner and his Supervisory Patent Examiner, Eduardo C. Robert, for the courtesy of the personal interview on March 6, 2007, with the Applicants' undersigned representative.

Applicants respectfully submit that currently pending claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18-20, and 123-126 overcome the Examiner's rejections. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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